



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

MAY 2005

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR MILWAUKEE/WOW COUNTIES

MILWAUKEE, WASHINGTON, OZAUKEE AND WAUKESHA COUNTIES

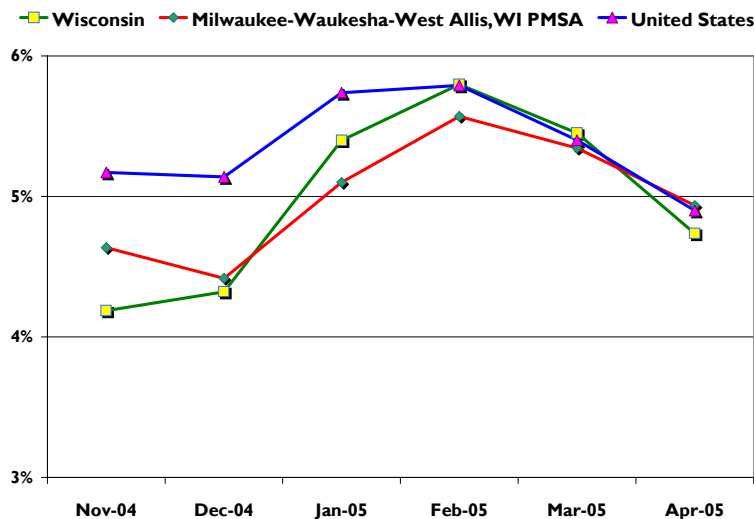
NUMBER OF JOBS UP MONTHLY AND ANNUALLY IN THE METRO AREA

Milwaukee County's unemployment rate in April was 5.7 percent. This rate decreased monthly by four-tenths of a percentage point. The county's labor force at this time has approximately 3,800 fewer employed residents and 4,800 fewer unemployed resulting in a significantly lower unemployment rate, one percent point lower than in April 2004.

Washington County's unemployment rate in April was 4.2 percent decreasing seven-tenths of a percentage point, monthly. The county's unemployment rate was 4.6 percent in April 2005. Washington County's labor force, on an annual basis, has close to 600 fewer employed and almost 400 fewer unemployed residents.

Ozaukee County's unemployment rate was 3.4 percent in April, decreasing over the month by six-tenths of a percentage point. Ozaukee registered the state's second lowest unemployment rate in April just behind Dane County's 3.0 percent rate. Ozaukee County's labor force has close to 400 fewer employed and almost 200 fewer unemployed compared to April 2004 and its unemployment rate is three-tenths of a percentage point lower than what it was last April.

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



Waukesha County's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in April, down four-tenths of a percentage point from March's final figure. Annually, the county's labor force has close to 1,800 fewer employed residents and just over 1,600 fewer unemployed resulting in an unemployment rate that is six-tenths of a percentage point lower than it was in April 2004.

The unemployment rate in the **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis MSA** was 4.9 percent in April. This is a decrease of four-tenths of

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA counties: April 2005

	Wisconsin			Milwaukee-Waukesha-W. Allis MSA			Milwaukee County		
	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04
Labor force	3,032,586	3,027,271	3,046,015	785,479	785,772	798,953	458,688	458,410	467,289
Employed	2,888,939	2,862,244	2,887,944	746,713	743,778	753,244	432,345	430,646	436,127
Unemployed	143,647	165,027	158,071	38,766	41,994	45,709	26,343	27,764	31,162
% Unemployed	4.7%	5.5%	5.2%	4.9%	5.3%	5.7%	5.7%	6.1%	6.7%
	Washington County			Ozaukee County			Waukesha County		
	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04	Apr-05	Mar-05	Apr-04
Labor force	70,028	70,270	70,984	46,997	47,106	47,561	209,765	209,985	213,120
Employed	67,098	66,834	67,685	45,384	45,205	45,781	201,886	201,092	203,652
Unemployed	2,930	3,436	3,299	1,613	1,901	1,780	7,879	8,893	9,468
% Unemployed	4.2%	4.9%	4.6%	3.4%	4.0%	3.7%	3.8%	4.2%	4.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for the Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA: April 2005

Place of Work Employment in 1,000's	Wisconsin			Milw'kee-Wauk-W. Allis MSA		
	April 2005	Change since March 2005	Change since April 2004	April 2005	Change since March 2005	Change since April 2004
All Industries	2,810.3	34.2	26.6	834.6	7.2	7.0
Construction/Natural Resources	130.3	11.8	4.4	34.2	2.8	1.8
Manufacturing	499.4	-1.5	2.1	134.6	-1.1	0.7
Retail Trade	311.2	3.5	0.6	80.8	0.2	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	116.1	1.8	3.2	39.4	0.2	0.5
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	108.3	2.3	2.4	30.6	0.4	0.9
Financial Activities	157.7	0.3	0.1	56.1	0.1	-1.4
Education and Health Services	382.9	-1.1	8.1	133.8	-0.4	2.9
Leisure and Hospitality	246.8	10.2	4.2	64.7	2.7	-0.1
Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services	435.0	6.3	1.6	168.2	2.8	3.6
Information	50.6	-0.3	0.9	18.4	-0.1	-0.2
Professional and Business Services	249.6	7.0	0.3	108.7	3.1	4.1
Other Services	134.8	-0.4	0.4	41.1	-0.2	-0.3
Fed/State/Local Government	422.6	0.6	-0.1	92.2	-0.5	-1.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

a percentage point since March and is the lowest unemployment rate for the month of April since 2001.

Annually, the metro area labor force has approximately 6,500 fewer employed and almost 6,900 fewer unemployed compared to April 2004. Its unemployment rate is eight-tenths of a percentage point lower than in April 2004. The metro area labor force shows an annual reduction of 13,500 total participants.

The industry employment picture for the **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis MSA** continues to show the steady improvement that began in mid-2004. The total number of jobs in April totaled 834,600. This represented an increase of 7,200 jobs over the month, which is a bit larger than usual between March and April, but this likely compensated for a March monthly gain that was smaller than expected. April is one of the months that typically shows a larger jump in employment. May and June also show some of the year's largest job gains as this is typically the peak employment level for the calendar year.

April's largest employment gains, on a monthly basis, were measured in pro-

fessional and business services (+3,100 jobs), construction (+2,800 jobs) and in leisure and hospitality (+2,700 jobs). Construction employment has shown more "pop" in 2005 than it had over the previous few years. It has gained close to 4,000 jobs since this last January for about 13 percent growth.

The manufacturing sector showed a monthly loss of employment, -1,100 jobs. This was the first monthly employment loss for this sector since November 2004. Government employment and education and health services employment also measured employment losses of 500 jobs and 400 jobs, respectively.

The annual industry employment perspective shows overall net growth of approximately 7,000 jobs or about eight-tenths of a percentage point growth. April was the 11th consecutive month to show an annual job improvement. Professional and business services employment showed the largest net volume growth of 4,100 jobs. The bulk of this sector's growth continues to be centered in employment services growth indicating that the use of temporary employees and temp-to-hire personnel continues to be in high de-

mand. Construction employment showed the largest proportional growth having gained 5.6 percent or about 1,800 more jobs compared to April 2004. Education and health services employment gained 2,900 jobs, annually. Despite its monthly employment loss, manufacturing has maintained an annual increase of 700 jobs as of April.

The sectors with annual employment loss were financial activities (-1,400 jobs), government (-1,400 jobs), retail trade (-500 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (-100 jobs). Other services has lost 300 jobs compared to April 2004.

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